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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/766,549	01/18/2001	John D. Martin	KCOS116809	9921

26389 7590 02/28/2003

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EXAMINER

RESTIFO, JEFFREY J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3618

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/766,549

Applicant(s)

John D. Martin

Examiner

J. Restifo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24, 26 and 28-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24, 26, and 28-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION**Acknowledgments**

1. Acknowledgment is made of the amendment filed 12/18/02.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1-24, 26, and 28-36 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of copending Application No. 09/757,827 to Aiken in view of Okajima (5,704,139). Aiken does not ^{claim} disclose a frame member attached to the outsole of the boot. Okajima does disclose a frame member 10 attached to an outsole 3 of a boot 1 for engaging a boot binding 30, as shown in figures 1 and 5. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided the ^{claimed} adjustable binding of Aiken with the boot frame of Okajima in order to secure the boot to the binding without the need for

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straps. Further, Aiken and Okajima disclose the claimed invention except for the adjustment members being fastened to the boot outsole, rather than to the binding baseplate. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have reversed the location of the adjustment members, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. See In re Einstein, 8 USPQ 167.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-3, 5-18, 20-24, 26, and 28-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aiken (US2002/0089129A1) and further in view of Okajima et al. (5,704,139).

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Aiken discloses a boot binding comprising a baseplate (or base member) 16, boot 44, and a plurality of adjustment members (or spacers or interface adjustment mechanisms or cleats) 37 with elastomeric portions 52 and threaded portions 60 for engaging threaded holders 56 for adjusting the distance between the baseplate and boot, as shown in figures 1-3. Aiken does not disclose the adjustment members as being mounted to a frame member secured to the boot outsole. Okajima et al. does disclose a boot binding comprising an elongate frame member (or binding attachment) 10 with fore and aft portions 21, 27 secured to a boot outsole 3, as shown in figure 4. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided the boot binding of Aiken with the sole frame of Okajima et al. in order to secure the boot to the binding without the need for straps. Further, neither Aiken nor Okajima disclose the adjustment members being fastened to the boot outsole. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have reversed the location of the adjustment members from the baseplate to the boot outsole, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. See In re Einstein, 8 USPQ 167.

6. Claims 4 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aiken and Okajima et al., as applied to claims 1 and 14 above, and further in view of Deacon et al. (5,367,793).

Neither Aiken nor Okajima et al. disclose the cleats (or adjustment members) as having apertures for receiving a driving tool for removal. Deacon et

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al. does disclose boot cleats 5 as having apertures 8 for receiving a driving tool for removal, as shown in figure 1. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided the boot binding of Aiken and modified by Okajima et al. with the tool apertures of Deacon et al. in order to allow a user to remove the cleats with a tool.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24, 26, 28, 29, and 35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

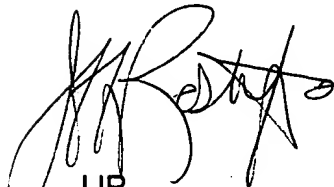
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey J. Restifo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0579. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (10:00-6:00), alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Johnson can be reached on (703) 308-0885. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

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JJR
February 23, 2003

Jeffrey J. Restifo
Examiner
Art Unit 3618



BRIAN L. JOHNSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600 2/24/03